



# A Worthwhile Tradition

## Greetings from Dr. Joy Kinard, Central District Manager

Hello Everyone... Happy New Year!

Do you live or work near the Central District? If you do, we have a wonderful year planned for you to become more familiar with the cultural and recreational resources found right in your backyard.

The Central District consists of the following units of the National Park Service: the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site which houses the National Archives of Black Women's History, the Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site, Capitol Hill Parks, Langston Golf Course, James Creek Marina and Buzzard Point Marina.

I'm sure you will be interested in taking full advantage of the variety of activities available in the Central District. If you enjoy learning about American history, relaxing by taking a walk, or hobbies like golfing, boating, or site-seeing, the National Park Service has something for you.

For more information on the opportunities available, please call or visit the Central District main office at:  
Mary McLeod Bethune Council House 1318 Vermont Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20005  
202-673-2402

This newsletter will help us better communicate with visitors, announcing specific programs, news and events. The title of this newsletter comes from Dr. Carter G. Woodson: "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." The National Park Service will continue to tell the story of all Americans, a worthwhile tradition indeed.

**Joy G. Kinard, Ph.D.**  
**Central District Manager**



Joy G. Kinard, Ph.D. was named the Central District Manager in September 2011. Prior to assuming the position, Dr. Kinard served as Site Manager of the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS and in various other positions within National Capital Parks-East. Photo: NPS staff

## 2012 Central District Events

### African American History Month

On February 18, 2011, at 1:00 pm, the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS at 1318 Vermont Ave, NW, Washington, D.C. will host a Junior Ranger Program for interested youth. The program will include an African American Artist Workshop with Gina Marie Lewis.

### Discussion of Bethune's Legacy

On March 10, 2012, at 10:00 am, the National Park Service will be joined by Professor Bettye Collier-Thomas and Professor Sandra Jowers-Barber for a discussion of Bethune's Legacy at the Watha T. Daniel Library at 1630 7<sup>th</sup> Street NW. For more information or to reserve seating please call (202) 673-2402.

### Women's History Month Symposium

On March 28, 2012, from 8:00 am to 12:30 pm, the National Park Service will host "A Salute to Mary McLeod Bethune and Maggie Lena Walker: The Power of the Past and the Power of their Paths" in the Cannon Caucus Room at the Cannon House Office Building at First & Independence St, SE, Washington, D.C.

### Mary McLeod Bethune's Birthday

On July 10, 2012, the National Park Service will host a birthday celebration at the Mary McLeod Bethune Memorial Statue in Lincoln Park at 13<sup>th</sup> & East Capitol St, SE, Washington, D.C. Details will be announced soon.

### Dr. Carter G. Woodson Birthday

Every year on December 19, the National Park Service commemorates the birthday of the Father of Black History. Planning for the 2012 event will begin soon.

# African American Women's Role Preserved by National Archives of Black Women's History

The National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) was founded in 1935 by Mary McLeod Bethune and other leading African American women of the twentieth century. It became a strong voice for African American women who diligently worked “to lead, develop, and advocate for women of African descent.”

Throughout its history, the NCNW would play a major role in the Civil Rights Movement, especially during the 1950s and 1960s under the leadership of then-president Dr. Dorothy Irene Height. In a video interview preserved in the National Archives for Black Women's History, Dr. Height emphasized the importance of women, asserting that “Everywhere you went, women were the backbone of the Civil Rights Movement.”

While Dr. Height's words speak to the fundamental role of African American women, unfortunately they are often overshadowed by historians who focus on the male leaders of the movement. The unique and important documents housed at the National Archives of Black Women's History serve to better facilitate a fuller understanding of African American women and their contributions.

The majority of the Archive's collection is the records of the National Council of Negro Women, including interviews, meeting minutes, and programs that reveal the organization's consistent involvement in the fight against segregation and discrimination.

As the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee demonstrated on the frontlines, records show that the NCNW provided support by funding the tuition for several of its participants. The NCNW also spoke out against the abuse of young female protesters in Southern prisons. Press releases found in the

Archive's collection show that the NCNW established a “Youth Emergency Freedom Fund” to provide support and personal items for the young women.

The day after the pivotal 1963 March on Washington, the NCNW hosted a conference to capture the energy of the March, creating two major initiatives. Newspaper articles found in the Archives highlight the NCNW's launch of the “Write for Rights” campaign, in which women from all over the country were encouraged to write their senators and representatives expressing their support for the President's Civil Rights Bill. The

conference also established a selective buying program in which participants would not buy from businesses that did not hire African Americans.

The historic work of the NCNW during the Civil Rights Movement should not be forgotten, yet their place in history books is limited. African American women laid the foundations for American history as we know it and the National Archives for Black Women's History holds the keys to better understanding their contributions.

**Ashley Robertson,**  
Archives Technician



A photo from the National Archives of Black Women's History collection showing NCNW members leaving the Council House to attend the 1963 March on Washington. Photo Credit: Courtesy of NPS, Fred Harris Studios

# Bethune Bookstore Has Hard to Find Books and Great Gifts



Ranger Margaret Miles is ready to help visitors find the book or gift they're looking for.

Photo: NPS Staff

Looking for a gift for a friend or something just for yourself?

Visitors are invited to explore the bookstore at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS for hard to find books and educational material related to African American History, written for both children and adults. The store also has videos and other souvenirs. Popular items include coffee mugs, pins, magnets, and Mary McLeod Bethune fans.

The Council House staff are happy to help visitors find the perfect book or gift from our unique selection. In fact, Ranger Margaret Miles remembers "The last time Dr. Dorothy I. Height visited our bookstore was in 2008. She liked the selection we had on women in the civil rights movement."

A sample of the books available at the bookstore can be found online at [www.eparks.com](http://www.eparks.com). If you aren't in the DC area or just can't make it in, we can

mail order your merchandise. The bookstore can even do off-site sales to complement special events.

With a varied selection to choose from, best-sellers include:

*African American Women in the Struggle for the Vote, 1850-1920* by Rosalyn Terborn-Penn

*Cobblestone: Mary McLeod Bethune: Educator, Organizer, and Political Activist*

*The Mis-Education of the Negro* by Carter G. Woodson

*The Black Family Reunion Cookbook: Recipes and Food Memories* by the National Council of Negro Women

*The Souls of Black Folks* by W.E.B. Du Bois

Do you collect the National Park Service Passport stamps? The bookstore has Passport books and cancellation stamps, including the stamp for the Carter G. Woodson Home NHS. The 25th anniversary limited edition Passport book is also now available. The Passport book contains maps, photographs and NPS information. Visit our site and get your Passport book stamped for two sites!

The bookstore at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS is open every day from 9a.m. to 5p.m. Visit us today!

**Veronica Quiguango,  
Park Guide**

# VIP Spotlight



Mr. Kenneth Milam has brought his love of history to his work as a Volunteer In Parks (VIP) at the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS.

Photo: Ashley LaGon, NPS

On July 30, 2011, Mr. Kenneth D. Milam attended a rally at the Carter G. Woodson Home NHS during the Centennial Celebration of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. At that rally, he shared his involvement with the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and his interest in Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the National Park Service with Ranger Margaret Miles, who informed him of the Volunteer In Parks (VIP) Program.

The Bethune VIP Program coordinators, John Fowler and Ashley LaGon, met with Mr. Milam shortly after the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Centennial Celebration. He started as a volunteer at the Council House in early September 2011.

Mr. Milam is originally from Clarksville, Tennessee. He graduated from Tennessee State University in 1974 with a Bachelors of Science degree in History and a minor in Political Science. He relocated to Washington, DC in 1977 to accept a position with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as an Assistant Research Analyst.

Mr. Milam has made an excellent contribution to the Central District. He has assisted staff in greeting visitors and regularly conducts tours of the house. In October, Mr. Milam helped recruit students (continued on page 4)



# Update: Carter G. Woodson Home National Historic Site



Dr. Carter G. Woodson in his office at 1538 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.

Scurlock Studio Records  
Archives Center  
NMAH, Smithsonian Institution

The National Park Service is working to restore the circa 1870 home of Dr. Woodson at 1538 9<sup>th</sup> Street, NW.

Work to preserve the site has already begun with a comprehensive General Management Plan (GMP). In early 2012, a final draft GMP will be released to allow public review and comment. A public meeting will also be held February 22, 2012 at the African American Civil War Memorial and Museum at 1925 Vermont Avenue, NW Washington, D.C.

This final GMP will guide the National Park Service in how it will operate the site and tell the story of Dr. Carter G. Woodson.

For more information on the process and future updates, please visit:  
<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/woodsongmp>

## Mr. Milam, VIP

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to participate in the *Mary McLeod Bethune's Legacy: An Intercultural Youth Experience to Understand Race in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, a workshop for area youth. He most recently assisted in the coordination of Dr. Carter G. Woodson's Birthday Celebration, which was held on Monday, December 19<sup>th</sup> at Shiloh Baptist Church.

Mr. Milam hopes that the communities surrounding the National Park Service sites understand the historical significance of these places. "I feel that these sites [in particular, Bethune and Woodson homes] are important because they reflect the contributions of African Americans as it relates to the growth and development of this country." Mr. Milam plans to continue volunteering and is eagerly awaiting the opening of the Carter G. Woodson Home NHS in the future.

**John Fowler,  
Park Guide**



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

This newsletter is brought to you by the staff of the Central District of National Capital Parks-East.

### Editor

Jamie Euken  
Park Guide

### Comments? Write to:

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### The Parks of the Central District of National Capital Parks-East

Mary McLeod Bethune Council House NHS  
[www.nps.gov/mamc](http://www.nps.gov/mamc)  
Carter G. Woodson Home NHS  
[www.nps.gov/cawo](http://www.nps.gov/cawo)  
Capitol Hill Parks  
[www.nps.gov/cahi](http://www.nps.gov/cahi)  
Langston Golf Course  
James Creek Marina  
Buzzard Point Marina

## Like us on

The Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site is now on Facebook!

You can learn about upcoming events, view pictures from previous programs, and keep up on all the up-to-date news about the Mary McLeod Bethune Council House all through Facebook. Like us at:  
[www.facebook.com/NPS.MAMC](http://www.facebook.com/NPS.MAMC).

The title of this newsletter comes from the famous quote by Dr. Carter G. Woodson: "If a race has no history, if it has no worthwhile tradition, it becomes a negligible factor in the thought of the world, and it stands in danger of being exterminated." American history and especially African American history is a worthwhile tradition, and we look forward to continuing the tradition that Dr. Woodson started, to make sure that all Americans better understand and appreciate our shared historical heritage.